

Message Text

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47

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

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R 011346Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9824

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT, UR

SUBJ: BREZHNEV'S MILITARY CAREER PLAYED UP

REF: DAO MOSCOW IR 6901043175

1. PRAVDA APRIL 30 RUNS PHOTOGRAPHS OF THREE PAINTINGS APPEARING AT ART EXHIBITION AT MOSCOW'S MANEGE HALL DEDICATED TO 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF END OF WAR. ONE OF PAINTINGS, ENTITLED "AT MALAYA ZEMLYA," SHOWS UNIDENTIFIED, UNIFORMED MILITARY MAN GREETING TROOPS IN MIDDLE OF BATTLEFIELD. FROM PRAVDA PICTURE, MAN COULD BE NO ONE OTHER THAN BREZHNEV, AND IN FACT, PAINTING WAS DONE BY D. NALBANDYAN, "COURT PAINTER" WHO DID FORMAL PORTRAIT OF BREZHNEV WHICH HAS BEEN SHOWN AT PRESTIGIOUS ACADEMY OF ARTS EXHIBITIONS. SAME PAINTING WAS SUHBJECT OF LONG CAMERA ATTENTION DURING NATIONAL EVENING TV NEWS MAY 30.

2. WE ALSO NOTE THAT IN PRAVDA APRIL 18 REPORT ON CONFERENCE DEDICATED TO 30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION (REFTEL) GRECHKO IS QUOTED AS EXTENDING GREETINGS FROM "GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE SOVIET UNION, THE ACTIVE PARTICIPANT IN THE GREAT FATHERLAND WAR, GENERAL OF THE ARMY LEONID
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ILYICH BREZHNEV."

3. COMMENT. REFERENCE TO "GENERAL OF THE ARMY"
WOULD REPRESENT DOUBLE PROMOTION FOR BREZHNEV, WHO,
AS FAR AS WE KNOW, WAS TWO-STAR GENERAL AT END OF WAR.
WE HAVE NOT SEEN THIS REFERENCE BEFORE, NOR HAVE
WE SEEN IT SINCE THE PRAVDA ARTICLE. WE ASSUME THAT
NEITHER GRECHKO NOR PRAVDA EDITORS ADDED THE EXTRA
TWO STARS TO BREZHNEV'S SHOULDERS WITHOUT
JUSTIFICATION.
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